



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

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COUNCIL NAMES BERLAGE TO CHAIR COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

The County Council today chose Derick Berlage to serve as chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, replacing Arthur Holmes, who is stepping down after serving the maximum two consecutive terms as a Board member.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be appointed to this important position," said Berlage. "I look forward to working with the Council to meet the critical challenges we face in transportation, affordable housing, protecting the environment, and sustaining our high-tech industries."

"Derick Berlage is uniquely positioned to serve this Council and this County," added Council President Steve Silverman. "I know that his 'can-do' attitude will be of enormous help in tackling our traffic congestion problems while preserving the quality of life that makes Montgomery County such a great place to raise a family, grow a business, and build a better future."

Berlage, 45 years old, served on the County Council for 12 years beginning in 1990, representing Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Wheaton, and Kensington. He was Council President in 1994-95 and served as chair of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee.

As a Councilmember, Berlage worked on road and transit improvements and for revitalization of commercial centers in Silver Spring and Wheaton. He championed the Council emphasis on affordable housing and revitalization of older neighborhoods through the County's Housing Initiative Fund. He co-authored the legislation to create the County's Economic Development Fund, an

initiative that has brought dozens of businesses and thousands of new jobs to the County. His Forest Conservation Act has preserved thousands of acres of County trees for future generations.

He was a member of the National Capital Transportation Planning Board from 1991 to 1998, chairing the body in 1997. He also served as co-chairman of the bicounty Task Force on WSSC Spending Controls. He is a graduate of Princeton University and New York University School of Law. He lives in Silver Spring with his wife Susan Mann and children Rachel, 10, and Daniel, 8, who attend public schools.

Berlage will assume his \$125,000 post as full-time chair of the five-member Planning Board next week.